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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM JOURNAL, Vol. 1, No. 1, April, 1900, is the first number of a new publication, intended to be a record of the progress of the American Museum of Natural History.

It is a handsome illustrated octavo, of sixteen pages, edited by W. K. Gregory, with Frank M. Chapman and L. P. Gratacap as Associate Editors, and will be furnished to subscribers monthly, except in June, July, August and September, for seventy-five cents a year. Address A. Woodward, American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park, West.

MINERVA, for 1899-1900, has for its frontispiece an admirable portrait of President Eliot of Harvard University, described in the *Vorwort* as the foremost of the prominent men who represent the higher education in the United States.

There is a steady growth in the number of references in *Minerva*, which now contains 1,166 pages, beautifully printed and with the minimum of error in so many thousand strange names. It is only in the two pages of the *Vorwort* that the printer has nodded, setting up in one place *Un dunter* for *Und unter*, and in another *Jür* for *Für*.

VOLUME LXII OF THE DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY begins with the notice of Sir Adam Williamson (1736-1798), and closes with that of Wynkyn de Worde, the famous printer.

It is announced that the concluding volume of the Dictionary will be published in June, and with it subscribers will receive an index to each of the volumes 1-14, issued without indexes.

M. AUGUSTE DESCAMPS, in an article in the *Bulletin* of the Lille Geographical Society, No. 9, for 1899, notes the persistence of the Arab type in the population of certain villages in the east and south of France.

Fugitives from the battlefield of Poitiers in 732 took refuge, it is affirmed, in the region between the Saône and the Rhone, and their descendants, many of whom bear Saracen names, such as Cafoud, Buiroz, Salladin, Roum, look like Orientals, with their thin, dark faces, aquiline noses and penetrating black eyes.

The best-known Arab colonies are at Boz and Uchizy. At

Uchizy M. Descamps found an innkeeper and his family with the thick black hair and vivid eyes, the bronze faces and high, keen features of Algeria. A Parisian artist was sketching them as types for a Biblical composition, and they had the Arab gravity and dignity of bearing. Living on the frontier of Burgundy, the people of Uchizy inherit the Mohammedan aversion to wine.

THE JUSTIN WINSOR PRIZE of \$100, offered by the American Historical Association, will be awarded this year for the best monograph based upon original investigation in American history. The work must be typewritten, or written upon only one side of the sheet, and ready for publication. Clearness, arrangement and literary form will be considered in making the award, and the successful essay will be published by the Association.

Prof. Charles M. Andrews, of Bryn Mawr, is the Chairman of the Committee.

LA REVUE DE GÉOGRAPHIE prints in its number for April, under the title of *Le livre d'or de la géographie*, the first part of an attempt at a geographical biography by M. P. Lemosof, covering the names from Abbadie to Azurara. In a brief introduction the author asks for the indulgence of his readers and invites them to suggest names worthy to figure in his list, which ranges through the world from antiquity to the present day.

It is not easy to understand the principle which has guided M. Lemosof. He finds a place for Agatharchides, but he omits Acuña, Adam of Bremen, Æneas Sylvius, Agrippa, Alfred the Great, and Aristotle. Abulfeda is duly registered, but Abdallatif is forgotten, and there is no mention of Azara.

If, as stated in the Introduction, the list is no more than a simple enumeration of names and dates, these should be correctly given.

Adam Afzelius is described in two lines as a Swedish savant, who was born in 1796 and lived for long years in Senegal. According to the biographical dictionaries Afzelius was born in 1750. He visited Sierra Leone in 1792, and in 1796 he was the Secretary of the Swedish Embassy in London.

In the notice of Louis Agassiz, it is said that he filled the chair of natural history at *New-Cambridge* (United States); that his journey in Brazil gave him his celebrity, and that his principal publication was *A Journey in Brazil*.

This appreciation of Agassiz is hardly relieved by the brilliant discovery of New-Cambridge.

Of Eivind Astrup M. Lemosof writes that he was a Swedish explorer, a member of the Peary expedition to the North Pole, and that he met his death in that enterprise in 1896.

Astrup was a Norwegian, not a Swede. He went with Peary in 1891, not to the North Pole, but to Greenland, and returned in 1892. He met his death in 1896, no one knows how, in the woods in Southern Norway.

There is room for improvement in the *Golden Book of Geography*.

THE OSTSCHWEIZERISCHE GEOGRAPHISCH-KOMMERZ. GESELLSCHAFT of St. Gallen makes known the death, on the 26th of March, of its Vice-President, Herr Konsul Otto Dürler, at the age of fifty-five years. Herr Dürler had lived for a long time at Batavia, where he was Swiss Consul, and returned to his home in 1892, apparently well, but with vitality impaired by the climate of Java.